<u>**Interview with Arts of Erebus by Sharack (2003)**</u>



**Arts of Erebus was formed in July 2001, how do you define your musical style?**

It's the mixture of new technologies that are brought by keyboards, all electronic instruments, computers, and all the classic sounds of real bass and guitars.

We decided not to have a drummer. In fact it's Michel who creates the drum sounds with real drum samples.

**What are your influences?**

It's the audience that can define our influences. We don't pretend to say that we sound the same as this or that band. After that, each member of the band has his own influences, but it's up to the audience to define what label to give us. If I really had to give names, I would say Diary of dreams for the electronic side. Clan of Xymox also have an interesting mix of electronics and guitars. Old masters like Sisters, Fields or Mission are inevitable influences, we listened to them so much.…

**You changed your singer, why did you choose a German singer? Is it a coincidence or is it really a choice?**

We were a band called Yuul, and due to various problems we split up with our singer, so we put an ad in a record shop in Germany, and Damien answered.

**You are indeed close to Germany!**

Yes, we are from Forbach and Damien is from the Saarbrücken area. He came, listened to our sketches and joined us.

**Did you rearrange your songs after Damien joined?**

Yes, the songs were rearranged according to Damien's lyrics. He writes the lyrics. He has exclusive rights to the themes. There are only four songs from the Yuul period that we reused, all the rest were created after Damien's integration.

**Who composes the music?**

For all the arrangements and lead guitar, it's Michel. He then submits the song to us, we then propose the necessary modifications, as well as our own instrumental arrangements, and he reworks the songs and Damien composes the lyrics.

**Are the lyrics ever created before the music and used as a basis for the song?**

No, Damien writes the lyrics according to his inspiration, he usually finds the theme of his lyrics at the first listening in rehearsal, he is inspired by the music.

**Your first album *Negative White* was released in June this year, what are the themes you deal with?**

We deal with different themes in different songs. Sometimes they are about love, social problems, the spirit or the gothic culture, Gothic girl is about these so called gothics who think that all they need is a good look to be gothic. Black diamonds, for example, deals with the harmful influence of man on the earth, nature is a jewel and man is taking all its shine away…

**Who did the cover design?**

Michel did it all himself. He proposed 3-4, and he worked with our opinions.

**Where can we get it in France?**

That's a problem. We are not distributed in France. However, it can be ordered via the internet through our website http://www.arts-of-erebus.de

**You played at the Tanzritual festival in Saarlouis last August, with Zeraphine, what are your impressions of this first big stage?**

It was our second big stage since we played in Forbach during the music festival, but it was indeed our first big stage with a well-informed audience. We already knew the audience that was going to come, so it was a very positive and enriching experience. For a band like us who make our music without any pressure from either side, we were able to bring something new to the audience who know us through our CD. Our priority is anyway to show our music live. It's more lively and we can feel the audience's reactions. It was great to see that people enjoyed our performance.

**Do you plan to play some dates in France soon?**

At the moment we're exploring, we have different contacts, it's quite possible that by the end of the year we'll play two or three times in France.

**How do you see yourselves in the current goth scene ? (French or international)**

Many bands are created, we try to bring a personal touch by avoiding to stick a label and this thanks to the mixtures of the various technologies which we use.

**You are signed to the German label Sonorium, how did you manage to do that?**

Damien had contacts, but we were lucky enough to have a finished product, and like many bands, we sent it around. We liked it, we just went for it. Our main goal is to show that the collaboration

between two cultures (German and French) can create an original approach that can appeal to everyone despite the differences in taste between the two countries.

**So we can say that your differences are your strength!**

Yes, absolutely, we each have our own favourite bands. Some sounds will appeal to some members of the band more than others, but in the end it creates an osmosis between us.

**If you had to choose a song from your repertoire, which one would you choose?**

This is very difficult, but I would say *Children of the night*. That's my favourite one to play. And secondly, I would choose Heroes in the dark.

**What are your current and future projects?**

We are preparing the second album. We already have 3-4 songs. So we start to work on them to integrate them in the next shows.

**One last question, how do you see Arts of Erebus in 10 years?**

9 albums or 10, and I hope to still be around!

Visit the Arts of Erebus website http://www.arts-of-erebus.de/